



RELEASED ITEMS

SOCIAL STUDIES
GRADE 6

FALL 2005

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
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PART 1

DIRECTIONS

Part 1 of this test contains questions which will ask you to study a passage, map, chart, or table. After studying it, read the questions and choose the *best* answer from among four answer choices. Use your **Answer Folder** to mark your choice for each question. You must use a number 2 pencil to fill in the circle for your choice in your **Answer Folder**. Remember to fill in the circle completely and cleanly, erasing any stray lines or marks.

Read all directions carefully. A sample item is provided for you below.

Sample Question

What was Gerald Ford's task as a member of the United States House of Representatives?

- A** making laws
- B** enforcing laws
- C** interpreting laws
- D** vetoing laws

The correct answer to the question is "A." Circle A is filled in on the sample item on page 1 on your **Answer Folder**. Items like this will have one *best* answer that you need to select to get the item correct.

The last item in Part 1 is a task that requires you to write a letter to a public official. This task asks you to interpret information from a set of data on a public policy issue, identify a relationship presented in the Data Section, take a position for or against the policy, and give reasons supporting your position. Space is provided in the **Answer Folder** for you to write your answer. Remember that you must write your answer in your **Answer Folder**. No additional sheets may be used.

You may refer at any time during this test to the list of core democratic values located in the back of this test booklet.

When you come to page 13 in this test booklet, you have come to the end of Part 1.

If you finish early, you may check your work for Part 1 only. Do **NOT** work on Part 2 of this test until you are told to do so.

Please raise your hand if you have any questions.

You may now begin.

GEOGRAPHY

Directions: Study the following information and use it with what you already know to answer the questions that follow.

FIVE STATES OF THE UNITED STATES

Here is some information about the five states indicated on the map:

State	An Important Industry or Product	An Interesting Place to Visit
Florida	Citrus fruits (oranges, grapefruit)	Everglades National Park (wetlands)
Michigan	Cars and trucks	Sleeping Bear Dunes (sand hills beside Lake Michigan)
Nebraska	Corn and soybeans	The State Capital in Lincoln
New York	Printing and publishing (books, newspapers, magazines)	Niagara Falls (near one end of the Erie Canal)
Oregon	Lumber	Crater Lake National Park (lake in the crater of an extinct volcano)

- 1 Which of the following *best* describes how fresh orange juice gets to Michigan from Florida in December?
- A It travels north by truck.
 - B It travels east by airplane.
 - C It travels southeast by railroad.
 - D It travels northeast by barge.
- 2 Where did immigrants travel on the Erie Canal?
- A from Michigan to Nebraska
 - B from China and Japan to California
 - C from the Atlantic to the Great Lakes
 - D from Mexico to Chicago and Detroit
- 3 What physical feature of the state makes Nebraska's important industry possible?
- A location by mountains
 - B location on a major wetland area
 - C location by the Great Salt Lake
 - D location on a prairie
- 4 What makes Nebraska *different* from the other four states?
- A It is the farthest north.
 - B It is the only farming state.
 - C It is not near a major waterway.
 - D Its landmass is divided by the Great Lakes.
- 5 Which natural processes were *most* important in shaping the landscape of Oregon?
- A tropical storms
 - B Mississippi River floods
 - C bulldozers
 - D volcanic eruptions

ECONOMICS

Directions: Read the following passage and use it with what you already know to answer the questions that follow.

FRANK'S HARDWARE STORE

Frank owns the local hardware store in town. He is proud to be a small-business owner, especially because stores like his are competing with large home improvement centers. Frank offers quality goods and services at reasonable prices. Sara works at Frank's hardware store on the weekends. She likes earning her own money, which she is saving for college.

- 6 If Sara goes to a football game with her friends on Saturday instead of working at the store, what is the opportunity cost of her decision?
- A She gives up the chance to earn money.
 - B She gives up going to the library.
 - C She gives up buying a new car.
 - D She gives up going to college.
- 7 Which of these describes customers who shop at Frank's hardware store?
- A producers
 - B importers
 - C exporters
 - D consumers
- 8 Which of these *best* describes the reason the home improvement center can sometimes offer lower prices than Frank's Hardware?
- A Frank pays his employees less money than the home improvement center.
 - B Frank offers better customer service.
 - C The home improvement center is part of a chain of stores that can buy items at lower prices from the manufacturer.
 - D The home improvement center is at a better location than Frank's.
- 9 Which *best* describes the type of ownership of Frank's hardware store?
- A partnership
 - B franchise
 - C corporation
 - D individual ownership
- 10 Which *best* describes the type of ownership of the large home improvement center?
- A corporation
 - B partnership
 - C individual ownership
 - D competition

CIVICS

Directions: Read the following letter and use it with what you already know to answer the questions that follow.

PEN PAL

Dear Marie,

Thank you for being my pen pal. I hope to visit you in Haiti next year. My grandparents came from Haiti many years ago because it was a poor country. My grandparents did not have much freedom there.

Seven years after they arrived, they promised to uphold the United States Constitution. They were very proud of their new country when they voted in the election for governor.

Your American friend,

Michelle

- 11** What does Michelle's letter show about her grandparents?
- A** They are now citizens of the United States.
 - B** They are becoming citizens of the United States.
 - C** They were born citizens of the United States.
 - D** They were not allowed to become citizens of the United States.
- 12** As United States citizens, how did Michelle's grandparents show responsibility?
- A** They voted.
 - B** They were proud.
 - C** They enjoyed freedom.
 - D** They returned to Haiti.
- 13** According to the letter, how did Haiti's economy affect the United States?
- A** It encouraged immigration to the United States.
 - B** It encouraged tourism in the United States.
 - C** It encouraged manufacturing in the United States.
 - D** It encouraged employment in the United States.
- 14** Michelle's grandparents helped to choose the governor. The governor is the executive for what level of government?
- A** city/township
 - B** county
 - C** state
 - D** federal
- 15** Which level of government allowed Michelle's grandparents to immigrate to the United States?
- A** city/township
 - B** county
 - C** state
 - D** federal

HISTORY

Directions: Read the following letter and use it with what you already know to answer the questions that follow.

MICHIGAN IN THE CIVIL WAR

August 15, 1863

Dear Charlie,

I am thankful that you are still alive after Gettysburg. You and Jamie and the rest of Michigan's Iron Brigade are heroes.

Mother and I do our work and the work the men used to do. We also joined the Soldiers' Aid Society to make bandages and clothes.

Did you know Jamie's home was a stop on the Underground Railroad?

May your wounds heal quickly.

Your sister,

Elizabeth

- 16** Why did Elizabeth call the members of Michigan's Iron Brigade heroes?
- A** They helped defeat the British.
 - B** They were spies for the Confederacy.
 - C** They risked their lives in battle.
 - D** They ran the Underground Railroad.
- 17** About how long after the War of 1812 did Elizabeth write her letter?
- A** one decade
 - B** three decades
 - C** five decades
 - D** a century
- 18** Which sentence in the letter suggests which side Elizabeth, Charlie, and their friends supported in the Civil War?
- A** "I am thankful that you are still alive after Gettysburg."
 - B** "You and Jamie and the rest of Michigan's Iron Brigade are heroes."
 - C** "Mother and I do our work and the work the men used to do."
 - D** "May your wounds heal quickly."
- 19** What could historians learn about the Underground Railroad from this letter?
- A** It went through Michigan.
 - B** It began in the 1820s.
 - C** It led north into Canada.
 - D** It involved many Quakers.
- 20** Which of these events happened after Elizabeth wrote her letter?
- A** Pontiac's Rebellion
 - B** the Toledo War
 - C** the Northwest Ordinance
 - D** the Great Depression

INQUIRY AND DECISION MAKING

Directions: Read the following information about a public policy issue. Use it with what you already know to complete the tasks that follow. You should take about 20 minutes to complete both Task I and Task II.

PLAY AREA FOR SMALL CHILDREN ONLY

A new play area at one county park is for small children only. At the entrance to the new play area, there is a low gate with a barrier across the top. Only children small enough to walk under the barrier without bending or stooping may play in that area.

DATA SECTION**Part A**

Students from kindergarten through fifth grade were asked two questions. The table below shows the percentage of students who answered "yes" to each question.

	Grades					
	K	1	2	3	4	5
Do you agree that the park should have an area for small children only?	95%	90%	80%	50%	35%	20%
Are you tall for your age?	10%	15%	15%	25%	35%	35%

DATA SECTION (continued)**Part B**

The county government provided information about the five county parks. (Park #1 is the park with the new play area for small children only.)

	Park #1	Park #2	Park #3	Park #4	Park #5
Picnic tables	X	X	X		X
Campground		X		X	X
Play area for all ages	X		X	X	X
Play area for small children	X				
Fishing		X		X	
Place for boats or canoes		X		X	

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING TASKS:**Task I: Interpreting Information**

Study the information in Part A of the Data Section.

- 21** Which of the following statements *best* describes the *relationship between the children's ages and their opinions about including an area of the park for small children only*? Be sure to mark your answer in your Answer Folder.
- A** Younger children are just as likely as older children to prefer the idea of a play area for small children only.
 - B** Older children are less likely to oppose the idea of a play area for small children only.
 - C** Older children are more likely to prefer the idea of a play area for small children only.
 - D** Younger children are more likely to prefer the idea of a play area for small children only.

Task II: Taking a Stand

You will now take a stand on the following public policy issue.

22 Should the county commissioners make special play areas only for small children in all county parks?

You may either support or oppose the proposal. Write a letter to the county commissioners. Use information from the Data Section to provide reasons that support your position.

You will be graded on the following criteria. Your letter must include:

- a clear and supported statement of your position;
- supporting information using a core democratic value of American constitutional democracy; and
- supporting information from the Data Section.

Remember to: Use complete sentences.
Explain your reasons in detail.
Explain how the core democratic value
you use connects to your position.
Write or print neatly on the lines provided
in your **Answer Folder**. No additional
sheets may be used.

ANSWER THIS ITEM IN YOUR ANSWER FOLDER.

NOTHING WRITTEN IN THIS TEST BOOKLET WILL BE SCORED.

STOP

**If you finish early, you may check your work for Part 1 only.
Do NOT work on Part 2 of this test until you are told to do so.**

PART 2

DIRECTIONS

Part 2 of this test contains questions that ask you to study a passage, map, chart, or table. After studying it, read the questions and choose the *best* answer from among four answer choices. Use your **Answer Folder** to mark your choice for each question. You must use a number 2 pencil to fill in the circle for your choice in your **Answer Folder**. Remember to fill in the circle completely and clearly, erasing all stray lines or marks.

Read all directions carefully.

All answers must be recorded in your **Answer Folder**. Nothing written in this test booklet will be scored.

You may refer at any time during this test to the list of core democratic values on the last page of this test booklet.

If you finish early, you may check your work for Part 2 only. Do **NOT** work on Part 1 of this test.

Please raise your hand if you have any questions.

You may now begin.

GEOGRAPHY

Directions: Read the following passage and use it with what you already know to answer the questions that follow.

AN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY, 1880

Many years ago, a group of German families came together to America so they could worship according to their beliefs. They bought cheap marshland. The men dug ditches to drain the soil so they could farm. The women managed the household and raised the children.

- 23** How did the families coming from Germany travel to the United States?
- A** on horseback across the Rio Grande
 - B** by railroad across Canada
 - C** by airplane across the Pacific Ocean
 - D** by ship across the Atlantic Ocean
- 24** How did immigration affect the physical environment of America?
- A** Acid rain caused air pollution.
 - B** American soldiers caused warfare.
 - C** Low prices caused economic depression.
 - D** Wilderness was turned into farmland.
- 25** When they first arrived, the culture of the families was *most* closely related to which of the following continents?
- A** Africa
 - B** Asia
 - C** Europe
 - D** South America
- 26** Which major kind of economic activity did the families practice?
- A** manufacturing
 - B** retail trade
 - C** agriculture
 - D** service industry
- 27** Which of these actions in the story tells how the families modified the physical environment?
- A** They bought marshland.
 - B** They dug ditches.
 - C** They managed the household.
 - D** They raised the children.

INQUIRY

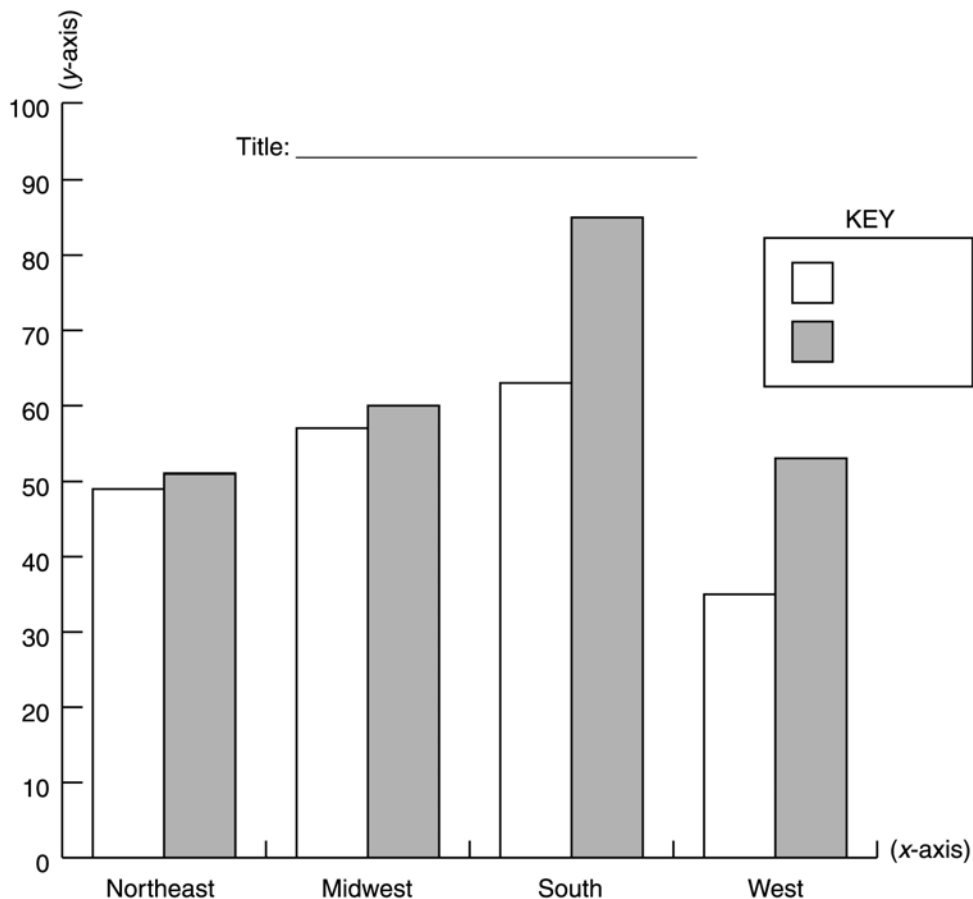
Directions: Study the following material and use it with what you already know to answer the questions that follow.

REGIONAL POPULATION**Regional Population of the United States, 1970 and 1990**

Region	1970	1990
Northeast	49,000,000	51,000,000
Midwest	57,000,000	60,000,000
South	63,000,000	85,000,000
West	35,000,000	53,000,000

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, 1995. Statistical Abstract of the United States. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Census.

The following outline of a bar graph was drawn to describe the data in the table above.



28 According to the table, which region had the largest increase in population between 1970 and 1990?

- A** South
- B** Northeast
- C** Midwest
- D** West

29 What title should be given to the bar graph?

- A** United States Department of Commerce Statistics
- B** Change in United States, 1970 to 1990
- C** Regional Population of United States, 1970 and 1990
- D** Bureau of Census Figures for the United States

30 What words or numbers should be used in the KEY on the bar graph?

- A** Northeast, Midwest, South, and West
- B** 49,000,000 to 85,000,000
- C** 1970 and 1990
- D** Population and Regions

31 What label should be used for the horizontal axis (x-axis) on the bar graph?

- A** Population
- B** Regions
- C** Percentage Change
- D** Years

32 If regions were presented on the bar graph from smallest to largest in terms of their 1990 population, what order should they be in?

- A** Northeast, West, Midwest, South
- B** West, Northeast, Midwest, South
- C** South, Midwest, West, Northeast
- D** South, Midwest, Northeast, West

CIVICS

Directions: Study the following information and use it with what you already know to answer the questions that follow.

STATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

A group of residents met to discuss their concerns about plans for state highway construction in their area. They wrote this schedule of activities for the week:

Day	Action
Saturday	Collect signatures on petition about state highway construction
Monday	Present petition
Tuesday	Attend public meeting called by their state representative
Wednesday	Write letter to newspaper editors
Thursday	Tape signs onto store windows stating opinion
Friday	Meet again to plan next week's activities

33 Who should receive the petition about state highway construction?

- A** the police chief
- B** the governor
- C** the United States senator
- D** the President of the United States

34 The meeting on Friday is an example of which constitutional right?

- A** freedom of assembly
- B** freedom of the press
- C** religious liberty
- D** due process of law

35 Who has the authority to take down the residents' taped signs?

- A** the storeowners
- B** the state troopers
- C** the newspaper editors
- D** the sheriff's deputies

36 Whose rights might conflict with the rights of the storeowners?

- A** the police
- B** the state representative
- C** the editor
- D** the group of residents

37 What would the state representative have the authority to do?

- A** take down the signs
- B** destroy the petition
- C** cancel the meeting
- D** prevent discussions

HISTORY

Directions: Study the following passage and use it with what you already know to answer the questions that follow.

THE PILGRIMS AND THE *MAYFLOWER*

The Pilgrims were a group of people who left England because they wanted religious freedom. The Pilgrims sailed on the *Mayflower*. After 66 days at sea, the *Mayflower* reached land on November 9, 1620.

The Pilgrims suffered much hardship that first winter. They were nearly starving when an English-speaking Native American walked into their settlement in 1621. His name was Squanto, and he became a friend of the Pilgrims. He showed them how to farm this new land and where the fishing and hunting were good.

- 38** Before leaving the ship, the Mayflower Compact was signed. Why was the decision to sign this agreement important in history?
- A** It showed that the Pilgrims enjoyed reading and writing.
 - B** It was the first written self-government agreement in America.
 - C** It gave the children on the ship something to keep them busy.
 - D** It allowed the Native Americans to have a voice in the new government.
- 39** Why is it important in history that people decided to sail on the *Mayflower*?
- A** They set a sailing record for crossing the Atlantic Ocean.
 - B** They had already sold their houses and had nowhere else to go.
 - C** They wanted to build a community where their rights would be respected.
 - D** They needed to leave Europe because there were too many people living there.
- 40** How was Squanto important to the Pilgrims?
- A** He showed them how to survive in North America.
 - B** He taught them how to make bows and arrows.
 - C** He told them the story of how he learned to speak English.
 - D** He gave them a map with a shortcut route back to England.
- 41** What were the hardships the Pilgrims faced during their first year in the New World?
- A** lack of courage
 - B** starvation, disease, and bad weather
 - C** lack of natural resources
 - D** drought and not enough trees
- 42** What happened before the *Mayflower* landed at Plymouth Colony?
- A** The British controlled the Great Lakes area.
 - B** Columbus claimed the New World for Spain.
 - C** The last of the thirteen American colonies was founded.
 - D** A French fort was built at the site of what later became the city of Detroit.

ECONOMICS

Directions: Read the following passage and use it with what you already know to answer the questions that follow.

WAVELAND PARK

Linda lives in Waveland, Michigan. Recently the town received good news. The State of Michigan had approved its request for money to improve the city park.

Waveland's city council held a meeting and invited residents. Linda went with her parents. Most people wanted the money to be used for building a public water park and for buying playground equipment. However, Waveland's mayor said that the money from the state could not pay for both projects.

Mr. Matthews was against building a public water park. He owns a water park. He charges admission and has many customers in the summer. He thinks a public water park would hurt his business.

- 43** In the passage, what was the role of the city government of Waveland?
- A** providing state money to Mr. Matthews
 - B** putting Mr. Matthews out of business
 - C** running Linda's school
 - D** deciding what park improvements to make
- 44** What choice could the city make that might help Mr. Matthews' business?
- A** It could increase his city taxes.
 - B** It could build a public water park.
 - C** It could buy his water park.
 - D** It could buy the playground equipment.
- 45** What is a company that builds new playground equipment?
- A** a producer
 - B** an importer
 - C** a consumer
 - D** a distributor
- 46** What was the role of the state government in improving the park?
- A** building a public water park
 - B** providing electricity to Waveland
 - C** providing money for park improvements
 - D** deciding how Waveland should spend state money
- 47** City workers would install the new playground equipment. In economic terms, what are city workers?
- A** corporations
 - B** human capital
 - C** natural resources
 - D** capital equipment

Notes



Some Core Democratic Values of American Constitutional Democracy

Core democratic values are ideas in which Americans believe. These values unite all Americans. They are saved for us in important documents, speeches, and writings of the nation. Below is a list of some core democratic values. **You may use any core democratic value to support your position, including those not on this list.** Be sure to explain **how** the value you choose supports the position you take.

Life

Liberty

The Pursuit of Happiness

Public or Common Good

Justice

Equality

Diversity

Truth

Popular Sovereignty

Patriotism

The Rule of Law

Individual Rights



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Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability

Michigan Department of Education
Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability
608 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, Michigan 48909
(517) 373-8393
www.michigan.gov/meap

Scoring Key

Part 1:

Item #	Answer Key
1	A
2	C
3	D
4	C
5	D
6	A
7	D
8	C
9	D
10	A
11	A
12	A
13	A
14	C
15	D
16	C
17	C
18	B
19	A
20	D
21	D

Part 2:

Item #	Answer Key
23	D
24	D
25	C
26	C
27	B
28	A
29	C
30	C
31	B
32	A
33	B
34	A
35	A
36	D
37	C
38	B
39	C
40	A
41	B
42	B
43	D
44	D
45	A
46	C
47	B